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        MAY 19 Derwent World Patents Index to be reloaded and enhanced
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        MAY 30
                IPC 8 Rolled-up Core codes added to CA/CAplus and
NEWS
                USPATFULL/USPAT2
NEWS
        MAY 30
                The F-Term thesaurus is now available in CA/CAplus
        JUN 02
                The first reclassification of IPC codes now complete in
NEWS 9
                INPADOC
        JUN 26
                TULSA/TULSA2 reloaded and enhanced with new search and
NEWS 10
                and display fields
NEWS 11
        JUN 28
                Price changes in full-text patent databases EPFULL and PCTFULL
NEWS 12
        JUL 11 CHEMSAFE reloaded and enhanced
NEWS 13 JUL 14 FSTA enhanced with Japanese patents
                Coverage of Research Disclosure reinstated in DWPI
NEWS 14 JUL 19
                INSPEC enhanced with 1898-1968 archive
NEWS 15 AUG 09
        AUG 28 ADISCTI Reloaded and Enhanced
NEWS 16
NEWS 17 AUG 30 CA(SM)/CAplus(SM) Austrian patent law changes
             JUNE 30 CURRENT WINDOWS VERSION IS V8.01b, CURRENT
NEWS EXPRESS
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NEWS EXPRESS JUNE 30 CURRENT WINDOWS VERSION IS V8.01b, CURRENT
MACINTOSH VERSION IS V6.0c(ENG) AND V6.0Jc(JP),
AND CURRENT DISCOVER FILE IS DATED 26 JUNE 2006.

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=> s microfluid? L1 17318 MICROFLUID?

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=> s microdroplet preparation module

0 MICRODROPLET PREPARATION MODULE

=> s microdroplet (s) module

10 MICRODROPLET (S) MODULE

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ANSWER 1 OF 10 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2006 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2006:109974 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 145:156996

TITLE: Effect of poling conditions on out-of-plane displacement for a shear mode PZT actuator

AUTHOR(S):

Cheng, C. H.; Chen, S. C.; Young, S. W.; Su, Y. R.;

Lin, Y. C.

Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering, CORPORATE SOURCE:

DA-YEH University, Changhua, 51505, Taiwan

Sensors and Actuators, A: Physical (2006), A126(2), SOURCE:

386-395

CODEN: SAAPEB; ISSN: 0924-4247

PUBLISHER: Elsevier B.V.

DOCUMENT TYPE: Journal LANGUAGE: English

A shear mode plate-shaped lead zirconate titanate (PZT) actuator for a novel actuating module in a microdroplet ejecting system was fabricated and tested. A novel poling design with both poling electrodes on the same surface is proposed. The actuator is made with lateral polarization parallel to the plane, in contrast to the conventional actuator with the polarization along the plate-thickness direction. Due to the requirement for the excellent electromech. coupling characteristics, the samples poled under various poling conditions were tested and compared to determine the optimum conditions. The poling conditions, including the poling voltage, poling temperature and poling duration, affect the electromech. characteristic or output actuated displacement. The distribution of elec. field in the sample during poling was simulated using com. finite element method (FEM) software to predict the appropriate poling voltage. Exptl. results indicate that the optimum conditions are a poling voltage of 7 kV, a poling temperature of 120 °C and a poling duration of 10 min. The sample with the optimum condition has the highest out-of-plane displacement of 400 nm under an actuating peak-to-peak voltage of 120 Vpp.

REFERENCE COUNT: 20 THERE ARE 20 CITED REFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR THIS RECORD. ALL CITATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE RE FORMAT L4 ANSWER 2 OF 10 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2006 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004:414769 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 140:416281

TITLE: Thermal micro-valves for micro-integrated devices

INVENTOR(S): Burns, Mark A.; Pal, Rohit

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): The Regents of the University of Michigan, USA

SOURCE: PCT Int. Appl., 84 pp.

CODEN: PIXXD2

DOCUMENT TYPE: Patent LANGUAGE: English

FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT: 1

PATENT INFORMATION:

PATENT NO.					KIND DATE				APPL	ICAT:	ION 1	DATE					
WO 20	WO 2004042357				A2 20040521			Ī	WO 2	003-1	US34	20031031					
W	: AE,	AG,	AL,	AM,	ΑT,	AU,	ΑZ,	BA,	BB,	BG,	BR,	BY,	ΒZ,	CA,	CH,	CN,	
	CO,	CR,	CU,	CZ,	DE,	DK,	DM,	DZ,	EC,	EE,	EG,	ES,	FI,	GB,	GD,	GE,	
	GH,	GM,	HR,	ΗU,	ID,	IL,	IN,	IS,	JP,	KΕ,	KG,	KΡ,	KR,	ΚZ,	LC,	LK,	
	LR,	LS,	LT,	LU,	LV,	MA,	MD,	MG,	MK,	MN,	MW,	MX,	MZ,	NO,	NZ,	OM,	
	PH,	PL,	PT,	RO,	RU,	SD,	SE,	SG,	SK,	SL,	ТJ,	TM,	TN,	TR,	TT,	TZ,	
	UA,	ŪĠ,	US,	UΖ,	VN,	ΥU,	ZA,	ZM,	ZW								
RI	V: BW,	GH,	GM,	ΚE,	LS,	MW,	ΜZ,	SD,	SL,	SZ,	TZ,	ŪĠ,	ZM,	ZW,	AM,	ΑZ,	
	BY,	KG,	ΚZ,	MD,	RU,	ТJ,	TM,	AT,	BE,	BG,	CH,	CY,	CZ,	DE,	DK,	EE,	
	ES,	FI,	FR,	GB,	GR,	HU,	ΙE,	IT,	LU,	MC,	NL,	PT,	RO,	SE,	SI,	SK,	
	TR,	BF,	ВJ,	CF,	CG,	CI,	CM,	GA,	GN,	GQ,	GW,	ML,	MR,	NE,	SN,	TD,	TG
US 200	42197	32		A1 20041104				US 2003-696889					20031030				
AU 200	32916	73		A1		2004	0607	AU 2003-291673					20031031				
PRIORITY A	PPLN.	INFO	. :	•				1	US 2	002-4	4235	94P		P 2	0021	104	
								1	US 2	003-	6968	89	i	A 2	0031	030	
								1	WO 2	003-1	US34	721	1	<i>i</i> 2	0031	031	

AB The movement and mixing of microdroplets through microchannels is described employing silicon-based microscale devices, comprising microdroplet transport channels, reaction regions, electrophoresis modules, and radiation detectors. The discrete droplets are differentially heated and propelled through etched channels. Electronic components are fabricated on the same substrate material, allowing sensors and controlling circuitry to be incorporated in the same device.

L4 ANSWER 3 OF 10 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2006 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2002:89922 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 136:129910

TITLE: Microscale devices for metered movement of liquid

microdroplets in microchannels

INVENTOR(S): Handique, Kalyan; Burns, Mark A.

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): The Regents of the University of Michigan, USA

SOURCE: PCT Int. Appl., 111 pp.

CODEN: PIXXD2

DOCUMENT TYPE: Patent LANGUAGE: English

FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT: 1

PATENT INFORMATION:

PATENT NO.	KIND DATE	APPLICATION NO.	DATE			
WO 2002007884	A2 20020131	WO 2001-US23245	20010724			
WO 2002007884	A3 20020815					
		BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ,	CA, CH, CN,			
CR, CU, CZ,	DE, DK, DM, DZ,	EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE,	GH, GM, HR,			
HU, ID, IL,	IN, IS, JP, KE,	KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK,	LR, LS, LT,			
LU, LV, MA,	MD, MG, MK, MN,	MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL,	PT, RO, RU,			
SD, SE, SG,	SI, SK, SL, TJ,	TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG,	US, UZ, VN,			
YU, ZA, ZW,	AM, AZ, BY, KG,	KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM				
RW: GH, GM, KE,	LS, MW, MZ, SD,	SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW, AT,	BE, CH, CY,			

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DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR, BF,
            BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG
                                20020131
                                          CA 2001-2418270
                                                                   20010724
    CA 2418270
                         AΑ
    EP 1303352
                         A2
                                20030423
                                           EP 2001-954912
                                                                   20010724
        R: AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IT, LI, LU, NL, SE, MC, PT,
            IE, SI, LT, LV, FI, RO, MK, CY, AL, TR
                                20040715
                                            JP 2002-513611
    JP 2004521315
                         T2
                                                                   20010724
PRIORITY APPLN. INFO.:
                                            US 2000-220320P
                                                                P 20000724
                                            US 2001-911055
                                                                A 20010723
                                            WO 2001-US23245
                                                                W
                                                                  20010724
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AB The movement and mixing of microdroplets through microchannels is described employing microscale devices, comprising microdroplet transport channels, reaction regions, electrophoresis modules, and radiation detectors. Microdroplets are metered into defined vols. and are subsequently incorporated into a variety of biol. assays. Electronic components are fabricated on the same substrate material, allowing sensors and controlling circuitry to be incorporated in the same device. Aqueous droplet flow can be controlled by the introduction of hydrophilic regions in the channels that prevent passive capillary flow but that can be passed over by application of pressure. These devices are particularly intended for high-throughput processing of nucleic acid samples.

L4 ANSWER 4 OF 10 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2006 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000:716119 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 133:278329

TITLE: Moving microdroplets in microfluidic devices INVENTOR(S): Handique, Kalyan; Gogoi, Bishnu; Burns, Mark A.;

Mastrangelo, Carlos H.

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): The Regents of the University of Michigan, USA

SOURCE: U.S., 51 pp., Cont.-in-part of U.S. Ser. No. 888,309.

CODEN: USXXAM

DOCUMENT TYPE: Patent LANGUAGE: English

FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT: 3

PATENT INFORMATION:

PA	PATENT NO.			KIND DATE							DATE							
US	US 6130098			A 20001010					997-		19970926							
us	6057	149			Α	A 20000502				US 1	995-	5292	93		19	9950	915	
	6048												19970703					
	CA 2304641																	
	2304						2003										-	
										WO 1	998-1	US19	19980925					
											BY,							
											HR,							
		-			-						LU,	-	-					
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	RW:	•	•	•	•	•	•	-		ZW.	AM,	AZ.	BY.	KG.	KZ.	MD.	RU.	
		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	FI,	•	•	•				
		-	-	-							CM,							
			TD,		,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,		,	
EP	1017	•	•		A1		2000	0712		EP 1	998-	9494	55	19980925				
	R:	AT,	BE.	CH.	DE.	DK.	ES,	FR.	GB,	GR.	IT,	LI.	LU.	NL.	SE,	MC,	PT,	
		•	•	•	LV,		-	•	•	•	,		•	_ ,	•	•	•	
JP	2001							1016		JP 2	000-	5141	19980925					
									AU 1998-95775									
	6911										000-				0000	306		
	2003												20030708					
PRIORIT	Y APP	LN.	INFO	. :						US 1	995-	5292	A2 19950915					
										US 1997-888309 A2 19970703								
										US 1997-938689								
										AU 1998-95775					A3 19980925			

WO 1998-US19960 W 19980925

AB The movement and mixing of microdroplets through microchannels is described employing microscale devices, comprising microdroplet transport channels, reaction regions, electrophoresis modules, and radiation detectors. The discrete droplets are differentially heated and propelled through etched channels. Electronic components are fabricated on the same substrate material, allowing sensors and controlling circuitry to be incorporated in the same device.

REFERENCE COUNT: 33 THERE ARE 33 CITED REFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR THIS RECORD. ALL CITATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE RE FORMAT

L4 ANSWER 5 OF 10 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2006 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000:285627 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 132:319477

TITLE: Microscale devices and reactions in microscale devices

INVENTOR(S): Burns, Mark A.; Mastrangelo, Carlos H.; Sammarco, Timothy S.; Man, Francis P.; Webster, James R.;

Johnson, Brian N.; Foerster, Bradley; Jones, Darren;

Fields, Yakeitha; Kaiser, Adam; Burke, David T.

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): The University of Michigan, USA

SOURCE: U.S., 19 pp.
CODEN: USXXAM

DOCUMENT TYPE: Patent LANGUAGE: English

FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT: 3

PATENT INFORMATION:

PATENT NO.	KIND	DATE	APPLICATION NO.		DATE		
US 6057149	 А	20000502	US 1995-529293	-	19950915		
US 6048734	Α	20000411	US 1997-888309		19970703		
US 6130098	Α	20001010	US 1997-938689		19970926		
US 6271021	B1	20010807	US 1999-271963		19990318		
US 6949385	B1	20050927	US 2000-517680		20000302		
US 6911183	B1	20050628	US 2000-518895		20000306		
US 2001046703	A1	20011129	US 2000-751493		20001228		
US 7066453	B2	20060627					
AU 2003211181	A1	20030807	AU 2003-211181		20030708		
US 2005272079	A1	20051208	US 2005-119539		20050429		
PRIORITY APPLN. INFO.:			US 1995-529293	A2	19950915		
			US 1997-888309	A2	19970703		
			US 1997-938689	A3	19970926		
			AU 1998-95775	A3	19980925		
			WO 1998-US19960	W	19980925		
			US 1999-271963	A1	19990318		
			US 2000-517680	A1	20000302		

AB The movement and mixing of microdroplets through microchannels is described employing silicon-based microscale devices, comprising microdroplet transport channels, reaction regions, electrophoresis modules, and radiation detectors. The discrete droplets are differentially heated and propelled through etched channels. Electronic components are fabricated on the same substrate material, allowing sensors and controlling circuitry to be incorporated in the same device. A device fabricated with metal resistive heaters and oxide/nitride/oxide coating was tested for biol. compatibility and temperature control by using PCR amplification of a known DNA template sample.

REFERENCE COUNT: 44 THERE ARE 44 CITED REFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR THIS RECORD. ALL CITATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE RE FORMAT

L4 ANSWER 6 OF 10 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2006 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000:232449 CAPLUS

TITLE: Thermal microvalves in a fluid flow method

INVENTOR(S): Burns, Mark A.; Johnson, Brian N.; Chen, Michael

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): The Regents of the University of Michigan, USA

SOURCE: U.S., 27 pp., Cont.-in-part of Ser. No. US

1995-529293, filed on 15 Sep 1995

CODEN: USXXAM

DOCUMENT TYPE: Patent LANGUAGE: English

FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT: 3

PATENT INFORMATION:

	PATENT NO.				KIN	D									DATE					
	US	6048734			A 20000411			0411	•	US 1997-888309							19970703			
	US	6057	149			Α		2000	0502	•	US	19	95-	5292	93		19950915			
	US	6130	098														19970926			
	CA	2294				AA	0114	1	CA	19	98-	2294	819		19980702					
	CA	2294	819			C		2005	0405											
	WO					A1 19990114											19980702			
		W:																, DE,		
																		, KE,		
			ΚP,	KR,	ΚZ,	LK,	LR,	LS,	LT,	LU,	Ľ	J,	MD,	MG,	MK,	MN,	MW	, MX,	NO,	
			ΝZ,	PL,	PT,	RO,	RU,	SD,	SE,	SG,	SI	[,	SK,	SL,	ТJ,	TM,	TR	, TT,	UΑ,	
			UG,	UZ,	VN,	ZW														
		RW:																, MD,		
																		, IT,		
			MC,	NL,	PT,	SE,	BF,	ВJ,	CF,	CG,	C	Ε,	CM,	GΑ,	GN,	ML,	MR	, NE,	SN,	
			TD,																	
	JP	2001	5094	37		T2	JP 2000-501359							19980702						
	ΑU	7487	63			B2	B2 20020613 AU 1998-8284													
		6949					US 2000-517680 US 2000-518895													
		6911																		
		2003						2003										20030		
	US	2005	2720	79		A1		2005	1208		US	20	05-	1195	39			20050		
PRIO	RIT	Y APP	LN.	INFO	. :						US	19	95-	5292	93		A2	19950		
																		19970		
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											WO	19	98-1	US13	819		W	19980	702	
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AB The movement and mixing of microdroplets through microchannels is described employing silicon-based microscale devices, including microdroplet transport channels, reaction regions, electrophoresis modules, and radiation detectors. The discrete droplets are differentially heated and propelled through etched channels. Electronic components are fabricated on the same substrate material, allowing sensors and controlling circuitry to be incorporated in the same device.

REFERENCE COUNT: 27 THERE ARE 27 CITED REFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR THIS

L4 ANSWER 7 OF 10 INSPEC (C) 2006 IET on STN ACCESSION NUMBER: 2006:8853888 INSPEC

TITLE: Effect of poling conditions on out-of-plane

displacement for a shear mode PZT actuator

AUTHOR: Cheng, C.H.; (Dept. of Mech. & Autom. Eng., DA-YEH

Univ., Changhua, Taiwan), Chen, S.C.; Young, S.W.; Su,

RECORD. ALL CITATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE RE FORMAT

Y.R.; Lin, Y.C.

SOURCE: Sensors and Actuators A (Physical) (14 Feb. 2006),

vol.126, no.2, p. 386-95, 20 refs. CODEN: SAAPEB, ISSN: 0924-4247

SICI: 0924-4247 (20060214) 126:2L.386:EPCP;1-Y

Doc.No.: S0924-4247(05)00586-8 Published by: Elsevier, Switzerland

DOCUMENT TYPE: Journal

TREATMENT CODE: Theoretical; Experimental

COUNTRY: Switzerland

LANGUAGE: English

AN 2006:8853888 INSPEC

A shear mode plate-shaped lead zirconate titanate (PZT) actuator for a AB novel actuating module in a microdroplet ejecting system was fabricated and tested. A novel poling design with both poling electrodes on the same surface is proposed. The actuator is made with lateral polarization parallel to the plane, in contrast to the conventional actuator with the polarization along the plate-thickness direction. Due to the requirement for the excellent electromechanical coupling characteristics, the samples poled under various poling conditions were tested and compared to determine the optimum conditions. The poling conditions, including the poling voltage, poling temperature and poling duration, affect the electromechanical characteristic or output actuated displacement. The distribution of electric field in the sample during poling was simulated using commercial finite element method (FEM) software to predict the appropriate poling voltage. Experimental results indicate that the optimum conditions are a poling voltage of 7kV,

a poling temperature of 120°C and a poling duration of 10min. The sample with the optimum condition has the highest out-of-plane displacement of 400nm under an actuating peak-to-peak voltage of 120Vpp. [All rights reserved Elsevier]

L4 ANSWER 8 OF 10 INSPEC (C) 2006 IET on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER:

2001:6982817 INSPEC

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

A2001-16-8280T-025; B2001-08-7230L-035 Potassium-selective conductometric sensor

TITLE: AUTHOR:

Shvarev, A.E.; Rantsan, D.A.; Mikhelson, K.N. (Chem.

Inst., St. Petersburg State Univ., Russia)

SOURCE:

Sensors and Actuators B (Chemical) (1 June 2001),

vol.B76, no.1-3, p. 500-5, 17 refs.

CODEN: SABCEB, ISSN: 0925-4005

SICI: 0925-4005(20010601)B76:1/3L.500:PSCS;1-D

Price: 0925-4005/2001/\$20.00 Doc.No.: S0925-4005(01)00601-3 Published by: Elsevier, Switzerland

Conference: 8th International Meeting on Chemical Sensors IMCS-8, Basel, Switzerland, 2-5 July 2000

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Conference; Conference Article; Journal

TREATMENT CODE: Experimental COUNTRY: Switzerland

LANGUAGE: English
AN 2001:6982817 INSPEC DN A2001-

AN 2001:6982817 INSPEC DN A2001-16-8280T-025; B2001-08-7230L-035 AB Potassium-selective membranes known as sensing modules for

potentiometric ion-selective electrodes are studied in ac-impedance mode.

It is shown that the bulk resistance of thin (20-250 μm) membranes

depends on the composition of aqueous bathing solution. The results are explained in terms of surface conductivity in space-charge region, in the vicinity of water microdroplets in membranes. A planar

potassium-selective sensor with a conductometric signal is proposed

L4 ANSWER 9 OF 10 COMPENDEX COPYRIGHT 2006 EEI on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2006(6):5103 COMPENDEX

TITLE: Effect of poling conditions on out-of-plane

displacement for a shear mode PZT actuator.

AUTHOR: Cheng, C.H. (Department of Mechanical and Automation

Engineering DA-YEH University, Changhua 51505,

Taiwan); Chen, S.C.; Young, S.W.; Su, Y.R.; Lin, Y.C. Sensors and Actuators, A: Physical v 126 n 2 Feb 14

SOURCE: Sensors and Actuato 2006 2006.p 386-395

CODEN: SAAPEB ISSN: 0924-4247

PUBLICATION YEAR:

2006 Journal

DOCUMENT TYPE: TREATMENT CODE:

Theoretical; Experimental

LANGUAGE:

English

AN 2006(6):5103 COMPENDEX

AB A shear mode plate-shaped lead zirconate titanate (PZT) actuator for a novel actuating module in a microdroplet ejecting system was fabricated and tested. A novel poling design with both poling electrodes on the same surface is proposed. The actuator is made with lateral polarization parallel to the plane, in contrast to the conventional actuator with the polarization along the plate-thickness direction. Due to the requirement for the excellent electromechanical coupling characteristics, the samples poled under various poling conditions were tested and compared to determine the optimum conditions. The poling conditions, including the poling voltage, poling temperature and poling duration, affect the electromechanical characteristic or output actuated displacement. The distribution of electric field in the sample during poling was simulated using commercial finite element method (FEM) software to predict the appropriate poling voltage. Experimental results indicate that the optimum conditions are a poling voltage of 7 kV, a poling temperature of 120 deg C and a poling duration of 10 min. The sample with the optimum condition has the highest out-of-plane displacement of 400 nm under an actuating peak-to-peak voltage of 120 Vpp. \$CPY 2005 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved. 20 Refs.

L4 ANSWER 10 OF 10 COMPENDEX COPYRIGHT 2006 EEI on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001(32):2290 COMPENDEX

TITLE: Potassium-selective conductometric sensor.

AUTHOR: Shvarev, A.E. (Chemistry Institute St. Petersburg

University, 198904 Petrodvoretz, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation); Rantsan, D.A.; Mikhelson, K.N.

MEETING TITLE: Proceeding of the 8th International Meeting on

Chemical Sensors.

MEETING LOCATION: Basel, Switzerland

MEETING DATE: 02 Jul 2000-05 Jul 2000

SOURCE: Sensors and Actuators, B: Chemical v 76 n 1-3 Jun 1

2001 2001.p 500-505

CODEN: SABCEB ISSN: 0925-4005

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2001 MEETING NUMBER: 58227

DOCUMENT TYPE: Conference Article

TREATMENT CODE: Experimental LANGUAGE: English

AN 2001(32):2290 COMPENDEX

AB Potassium-selective membranes known as sensing modules for potentiometric ion-selective electrodes are studied in ac-impedance mode. It is shown that the bulk resistance of thin (20-250 mum) membranes depends on the composition of aqueous bathing solution. The results are explained in terms of surface conductivity in space-charge region, in the vicinity of water microdroplets in membranes. A planar potassium-selective sensor with a conductometric signal is proposed. \$CPY 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. 17 Refs.